

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

July 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft April 18, 2008 Meeting Notes
- Draft Letter to Congressional Members
- Brief Synopsis of The Bay Delta Conservation Plan – July 9, 2008
- First Staff Draft Strategic Plan-Delta Vision Presentation
- Adaptive Management—An Overview

Action Items and Key Decisions

- April 18, 2008 Meeting notes approved
- Final draft of Letter to Congressional Members to be distributed next week
- Membership WG will be reconvening to address new applications for membership to the SC.

Updates

- Will Stelle reporting: Karen Scarborough is on vacation. He is filling in as meeting facilitator. Send any questions and concerns to Marc Ebbin, Will Stelle, or Laura King Moon while Karen is out.
- Jason Peltier reported that the recent SF Chronicle article on the drought reported inaccurate numbers when it said up to 60,000 acres of agricultural land had been taken out of production. He indicated that in Westlands district alone, 200,000 acres of agricultural land had been taken out of production.
- Governor Schwarzenegger has sent a water bond measure to the legislature
- Roger Patterson reported that Senator Flores met with water agency people as well as the NGOs on the Delta smelt fish hatchery issue.
- Ted Meyers reported NOAA is expecting a decision from Judge Wanger next week regarding its biological opinion on salmonids.
- Leo Winternitz introduced the new lead scientist for CALFED Bay Delta Science Program, Dr. Clifford H. Dahm.
- Cindy Darling announced she is retiring in August
- Carl Wilcox reported the Salmonid Recovery Plan is currently undergoing agency review.

Delta Vision presentation—First staff draft strategic plan

John Kirlin presenting:

Final Draft Strategic Plan is due by the end of October with the final draft due December 2008. The following is an outline of items addressed in the presentation:

- Final products from the Delta Vision Task Force (DVTF) likely to include:
 - Strategic Plan
 - Recommendations regarding near-term actions
 - Programmatic elements relevant to proposed California Delta Ecosystem and Water Plan
- Task Force schedule through October;
 - June 26-27: Presentation of first staff draft; panels from Delta Protection Commission and stakeholders

- July 17-18: Modestly revised draft: panels of local officials, business representatives, relevant state and federal departments
- August 21-22: Revised draft; panels of stakeholders; regional sessions inputs; staff looks for an “OK to proceed” check by DVTF
- September 18-19: Draft responsive to DVTF direction; limited panels; preliminary recommendation
- October 16-17: Draft responsive to DVTF direction; very limited panels; final recommendation
- Strategies for governance and finance
- Strategies for ecosystem
- Strategies for water
- Coordination with BDCP

In August, Delta Vision will produce a substantial draft strategic plan, thematically similar to this First Staff Draft Strategic Plan. Delta Vision expects significant changes in the way water is dealt with and in the way ecosystems are dealt with. They are recommending no change in existing authorities.

SC members engaged in a discussion with John Kirlin over the issues raised in his DV Staff Strategic Plan presentation. Issues discussed included questions about DV workshops being conducted throughout the state and the role BDCP will have in those workshops, how to describe the difference between DV and BDCP, near term actions, how the DV plan will be implemented, expectation that the DV plan will appear in the Governor’s budget, and ongoing communication between DV and BDCP.

Adaptive Management—An Overview

Pete Rawlings presenting:

The following is an outline of items addressed in the presentation:

- Adaptive management is described in the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Five Point Policy for HCPs
- Adaptive management also reflected in NCCPA Section 2805
- Recommended contents for BDCP’s Adaptive Management Plan (AMP)
 - Scope of AMP
 - Entities participating and their roles and responsibilities
 - Incorporation of scientific data and analysis
 - AMP decision making process
 - Key uncertainties
 - Active and passive approaches to management

SC members discussed the issues and concerns around the development of an adaptive management program for BDCP including: some of the limitations of adaptive management plans in other HCPs, the need to develop an adaptive management program prior to the implementation of the BDCP, a schedule for creating the AMP for BDCP, incorporation of adaptive management approaches within the recommendations of working groups and technical teams, development of approaches to monitoring, establishing a role for independent scientific input in the process, and identifying approaches to both active and passive adaptive management.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Public Outreach Liaisons Working Group

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) reporting: Ann Hayden may be joining the Working Group. The Working Group is looking for additional NGO participation. Karla indicates the WG is moving toward more active

engagement with in Delta communities and public agencies. Keith Coolidge sees potential for workshops. Joe Grindstaff will be meeting with local Delta officials.

SC members discussed the response (see Additional Handouts: Draft Letter to Congressional Members) to the letter from congressional representatives Miller, Tauscher, Thompson, Matsui and McNerney that was sent to the fish agencies. There have been useful responses to the draft letter from caucuses. Will Stelle has made updates to the letter. Members debated recommended changes to the letter. Final draft will be distributed next week.

Science Liaisons Working Group

Kim Delfino (co-chair) reporting that Wayne Spencer is not yet under contract.

Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Groups

Brent Walthall (co-chair) presenting. WG continues to meet to refine the list of other stressors. Consultants are writing conservation measures that can be tested by DRERIP. Brent really appreciates the strong participation of the agencies.

Habitat Restoration Technical Team

Dave Harlow (co-chair) presenting. Restoration concepts are being readied for DRERIP Evaluations. Goal is to complete concepts by the end of August.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) presenting. Working Group has created a detailed schedule of topics to address from now through the first part of October. The Working Group is reviewing the Delta Vision proposed approach to governance.

Conveyance Working Group

Ann Hayden (co-chair) reported on HOTT scenarios presentations. WG is focusing on three full-Delta scenarios. They have had discussions on outflow. Conveyance WG will not meet next week. Gary Bobker expressed concern that the HOTT has not had adequate time to address the conveyance issues.

Jerry Johns passed around the handout "Draft Fish Screen Component Matrix." Fish Facilities TT is discussing fish screen design issues.

Membership Working Group

Membership WG will be reconvening to address new applications for membership to the SC.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group:

Gary Bobker (co-chairs) reporting: Working Group is active again and seeking guidance from SC. Consultants are working with the Working Group to create a set of working biological goals and objectives. There has been a diverse reaction. Gary doesn't believe the current goals and objectives are far enough along. There will be more discussion this week. Question was raised about the role of fish agencies in this process. Richard Roos-Collins asked co-chairs to bring any outstanding issues to the SC next time.

Public Comment

Osha Meserve representing the City of Antioch. Antioch is still concerned with how an implemented BDCP will protect in Delta uses of water within Antioch and its customers. The SWRCB can't approve changes to water rights that harm other legal water users. They have been following modeling efforts and are concerned that decisions regarding in Delta water quality are being deferred. Any BDCP messaging process needs to ensure that the concerns expressed by the public are actually considered. Antioch is considering submitting an application for membership to the BDCP SC as well as other options.

Melinda Terry from the North Delta Water Authority concurs with Osha Meserve's comments.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense) (phone)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Natural Conservancy)
Campbell Ingram (The Natural Conservancy)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
John McCamman (DFG)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Ted Meyers (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
John Chillemi (Mirant)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
